

## REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 6, 12, 18 and 24 have been amended. Claims 1-29 are pending and under consideration.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are now discussed.

Independent claim 1 recites at least one shield member blocking and contacting a plurality of surfaces of at least one of the first and second magnets. In contrast, the frame 36' of Keil (relied upon by the Examiner) contacts a single surface of the magnet 41' (also relied upon by the Examiner). Keil, FIG. 3. It is noted that the frame 36' of Kiel is not directed to preventing loss of magnetic force, but instead prevents magnetic material from permeating into the space in which the magnet is installed.

Independent claims 12 and 24 are patentably distinguishable from Keil at least for similar reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1.

Independent claim 6 recites at least one shield member blocking side surfaces of at least one of the first and second magnets, the side surfaces being to the side of a surface not facing the other magnet. In contrast, the frame 35 is disposed rearward relative to the magnet 41. Keil, FIG. 2.

Independent claim 18 is patentably distinguishable from Keil at least for similar reasons as discussed with respect to claim 6.

Hyodo does not overcome these deficiencies in Keil, and is not relied on by the Examiner to do so.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 12-26-06

By: 

Michael J. Badagliacca  
Registration No. 39,099

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501